



Date: March 21, 2013

To: Councilmember Sally Bagshaw

From: Christopher Williams, Acting Superintendent

Re: Superintendent's Report, Parks and Seattle Center Committee

Highlights

Post-shooting actions. We have held 15 Employee Assistance Program group meetings for our staff since the March 8 shooting, including one for top level management and first responders held on Monday, March 25. The acting superintendent and acting deputy superintendent have attended 12 meetings in 10 business days with staff at all levels of Parks and within every division. We have met in large and small groups with nearly all 800 staff in Parks.

Staff in the Recreation Division, where the shooter worked, and staff who were at the Densmore facility at the time of the shooting are having the hardest time returning to normal. Staff in other work units report that things are getting back to normal. Staff throughout Parks report being hyper vigilant about any behaviors they see as unusual.

Bill Keller continues to improve, and his family is pleased with his care. With any luck, Bill will be released from the hospital at the end of next week.

Seattle Parks is helping Associated Recreation Council (ARC) with some personnel issues as they do not have their own Human Resources unit. Parks leadership is staying in close touch with the ARC Board while they develop a plan for interim leadership. (We do not know when Bill will return to work, and the second in charge at ARC will take maternity leave beginning June 1.)

We continue to work with a crisis communications specialist, and are developing next steps.

Visitor assistance. A hotel concierge contacted Park Security regarding two elderly guests from Japan who lost their fanny pack containing their passports and money while on a sightseeing walk at the waterfront. Park Ranger Cyril Ishem went out to the park, and conducted a thorough area search which ultimately resulted in the fanny pack being found and returned to the owners.

Park Board vacancy. Megan Heahlke has resigned from the Board of Park Commissioners because of time constraints, so we look forward to working with you to identify a replacement, as this is a Council appointment.

Northgate Community Center serves as a shelter. Following an apartment fire in Northeast Seattle on Friday, March 22, Northgate CC served as a shelter from Saturday through Monday. Our staff reacted swiftly to accommodate the people who needed shelter and to keep the center running efficiently. Seattle Animal Shelter now handles pet sheltering.

Sabey Construction repairs Georgetown Playfield picnic shelter. Sabey Corporation, which “lives” in the Georgetown neighborhood, is donating the labor and materials necessary to rebuild the shelter that was destroyed in an arson fire last August. Thanks to Sabey!

Projects

Bell Street Park. Construction on Bell Street Park began March 21, 2013. Construction will begin on the block between 1st and 2nd Avenues, and is scheduled to be complete by the end of May. One of the two lanes on Bell Street between 1st and 5th Avenues will be converted into park space, leaving one lane for cars, a bike lane, and a parallel parking lane. The rest of Bell Street, or 42 feet of the 66-foot wide strip will feature trees, seating, and sidewalks for pedestrians. Parks will replace the 46 existing trees (that must be removed to accommodate the project) with 105 new trees. Existing street lights will be removed and replaced with an average of five energy efficient LED street lights and 10 energy efficient 14-foot pedestrian lighting fixtures per block.

Parks Headquarters roof replacement. The roof replacement project at Parks Headquarters, 100 Dexter Ave. N, is complete. It includes a new roof, new HVAC units, electrical upgrades, and some minor architectural improvements. We no longer have a wetland in the main floor hallway!

Volunteer Park Play Area renovation. The new play area is almost done, with substantial completion anticipated by April 1, 2013. The final site cleanup and play area inspection is underway. ADA and safety railings are scheduled for delivery and installation next week. We just need a good weather window to apply hydroseed (predictions for stormy weather have foiled us a couple of times now). We will use sod for the grassy areas next to the play area, which will go down early next week.

West Seattle Reservoir Park development. We have passed the 95% review milestone and are proceeding with final corrections to plans. Design work other than permit corrections will be completed in April 2013. We hope to bid this project in early summer. It includes an overall site plan and improvements to transform the 20 acres of open space on the reservoir lid into a new neighborhood park and gathering space for southwest Seattle. The project will include artwork commissioned with 2008 Parks &

Green Spaces Levy and SPU 1% for Art funds and administered by the Office of Arts & Culture.

Summer Camp registration goes online. Summer Day Camp Registration begins Tuesday, April 2. Most camps will allow online registration this year for the first time ever. This is a huge business practice change for community center staff. The Business Service Center will help staff with the new process through training, support and reporting.

SW and NE Queen Anne Greenbelts. Parks crews cleaned up two encampments in the greenbelts recently and removed a total of 18 cubic yards of debris. The crew found almost 500 needles at these sites.

Magnuson Park. Maintenance crews, heavy equipment staff and an in-house landscape architect are working together to connect two paved trails in Magnuson Park, so that pedestrians who now have to walk along the side of a roadway within the park will be able to safely stay out of traffic on walks. The project will include installing rock and woody debris habitat along the trail for amphibians and small mammals. The park Habitat Committee vetted the project and public signage describing the project is in place.

Boat Moorage restoration. Parks is compiling a Request for Proposals seeking design/build/operate firms capable of investing in and operating at a profit, the North and South Leschi Marinas, and Lakewood Marina on Lake Washington. Reid Middleton Engineering's Marine Division is assisting with the technical, permitting, and logistics of the entire proposal process which is being publicly advertised this week. We anticipate announcing the preferred proposal in June.

Community

RecTech Teens produce videos for PBS and MOHAI. Delridge Community Center Lab Coordinator Leslie Howle reports that the interns have been busy producing videos for the MOHAI History Contest. Three groups of teens are each producing a video. The teens also have taken on an additional project with KCTS TV for the YOUNG Makers Program. The interns' videos will be broadcast on PBS. For their short documentary, the girls in the group selected for an interview a Seattle woman who inspired them.

Including King County Mental Health in our urban outreach. Susan Shoeld, the Crisis Diversion Program Manager for King County Mental Health, joined park rangers as the crisis intervention partner with Seattle Parks and Seattle Police on a ridealong recently. She noted the wide variety of contacts rangers make every day with the homeless, mentally ill, and vulnerable populations living on our streets and in our parks.

Conservation Futures funding. Parks submitted six applications totaling \$3.65 million to King County for Conservation Futures funding to supplement 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy projects. The applications were for the West Seattle Junction

Neighborhood Park, Smith Cove Park Addition and four potential opportunity fund projects.

Ernst Park addition. Parks acquired property north of A.B. Ernst Park in Fremont with Parks and Green Spaces Levy funds. It is one of the several parks we have “landbanked” – that is, decided not to develop until we find ourselves on a more sustainable track for operations and maintenance, as new developed parks would add to our maintenance responsibility. A group from Fremont has approached us with a development proposal for the addition, and we are working with them in hope of reaching a satisfactory compromise.